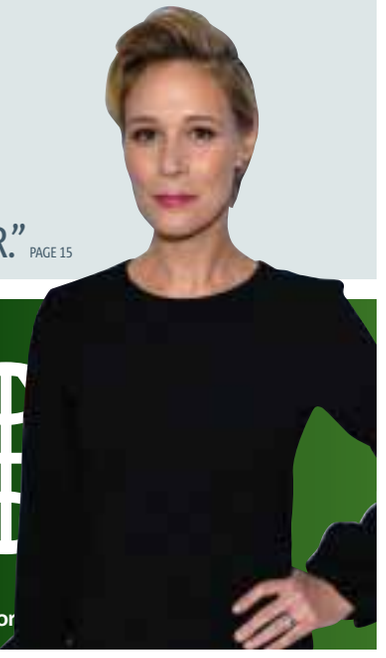
FROM 'GILMORE' TO SHONDALAND

LIZA WEIL ON "HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER." PAGE 15



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Thursday, February 5, 2015 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYor

Murder in Astoria

Death comes to Queens. Croatian historian William Klinger was shot to death in Astoria Park on Sunday. His landlord confessed, saying Klinger had disrespected him. Is that the whole story? PAGES 4-5

A man walks through the area of the crime scene in Astoria Park. / ALAN CHIN, METRO

Bratton, PBA chief find common ground

PAGE 08

'Seventh Son' star Jeff Bridges abides

PAGE 16

Make this Valentine's Day one to remember

PAGES 23-25

Fantasy hoops: A mix of stars and scrubs

PAGE 28

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1 'Paris Hilton's brother doesn't like flying with "peasants"'

2 'This Week in Health: Workaholics more likely to be heavy drinkers'

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On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Officials inspect the Metro-North train that hit an SUV on the rail tracks near Valhalla, New York, Tuesday night. / GETTY

Grade crossings are MTA safety issue

Train crash. Metro-North has 129 grade crossings like the one on which Ellen Brody was stopped when a train plowed into her SUV, leaving six people dead.

The Metro-North accident Tuesday night that left at least six people dead, including the driver of an SUV that was illegally on the railroad tracks, came at a grade crossing, which regulators have said for years should be eliminated across the U.S. for safety reasons.

A 2014 report by the Federal Railroad Administration described Metro-North's overall safety record as "unacceptable," following a 2013 derailment in Riverdale that killed four people.

Regulators accused the MTA of sacrificing safety for efficiency, and found that Metro-North did not comply with several requirements for operating rules of trains over grade crossings "under certain conditions."

The report suggested "the elimination of grade crossings with strategic placement of overpasses and underpasses" to "enhance rail, vehicular and pedestrian safety."

The MTA told Metro the only violation the agency was aware of related to grade crossings had to do with its "Stop-and-Warn" system, where in certain conditions a conductor steps off the train to make sure it can continue moving. An MTA spokesperson said the agency had resolved that issue last April, and is fully compliant with federal grade crossing regulations.

The best way to prevent accidents similar to Tuesday night's would be to close them and build either over- or underpasses, said former MTA executive Mortimer Downey.

"But the first is always controversial and the second is very expensive," said Downey, who served as deputy secretary of transportation under President Bill Clinton.

Downey chaired a 2014 panel that examined rail safety and infrastructure throughout the MTA's system, including Metro-North. Grade crossings were not a part of the report's findings.

Eliminating all 129 grade crossings on Metro-North tracks would take years, and cost figures were not immediately available. The MTA budgeted $1.5 million in fiscal year 2016 for upgrading Metro-North grade crossings.

The damaged Metro-North train cannot be removed nor can repairs begin until investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board finish gathering evidence.

The MTA hoped to resume train service along the affected Upper Harlem Line by Thursday. Service between Pleasantville and North White Plains will remain suspended for the time being.

Crash victim

Officials identified the driver of the SUV as Ellen Brody, a mother of three from Edgemont, New York. Brody, 49, was reportedly on her way home when her vehicle appeared to get stuck at the tracks on Commerce Street and safety gate arms fell on top of the car as she crossed the tracks.

- Rather than back up, Brody apparently tried to cross the tracks before the northbound train arrived and was hit by the eight-car train that was traveling at 58 mph.
- Brody was returning from her work at a jewelry designs studio.

By the numbers

129

Number of grade crossings on Metro-North tracks

$1.5M

Budget for maintaining and improving safety at grade crossings

Safety

Crossing gates are key to safety

Nationwide, the Federal Railroad Administration reports there are about 270 deaths each year at grade crossings like the one where the Metro-North accident took place, where roads cross rail tracks at ground level.

The modern-day safety guard arms at grade crossings are supposed to have guard arms and red lights to warn drivers to avoid the tracks due to an incoming train.

Crossing gate / ISTOCK

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Murder of

Astoria. William Klinger was killed by fellow Croatian Alex Bonich on Saturday. Why?

When cops arrested a mysterious Queens man for pumping two bullets into the back of the head of historian William Klinger, an expert in the former Yugoslavia's brutal communist past, the Saturday slaying in Astoria Park was quickly attributed to an Italian real estate deal gone bad.

Klinger, a Croatian national who was living in Rome, was in America by some accounts, to teach. Others say he was only in town for a conference on Yugoslavia. Police said the 42-year-old Klinger was renting a room from his accused killer, fellow Croat Alexander Bonich.

Bonich told police he felt disrespected by Klinger. "[I] grew angry that this visitor would threaten me and pass rude remarks," he told police, the Daily News reported.

He said Klinger walked away after arguing. "I told him to stop, but he turned his back and kept walking away," said Bonich, who was held without bail Tuesday after being arraigned in Queens. "The gun fired. He fell immediately at the foot of the stairs."

"I fired again, sickened by his behavior," he added.

A Metro investigation has found that there's much more to this story, starting with Klinger's grieving widow and the alleged killer's identity, which has changed several times through the years.

After cops arrested Bonich, 50, he is said to have confessed that he was mad that Klinger had reneged on a promise to sell him his home in Italy.

That's news to Klinger's Italian wife, Francesca Boscarol. "She didn't know anything about that deal," a source told Metro.

In Croatia, some of his fellow countrymen believe something far more sinister is afoot. And it is all connected to the longtime Yugoslav dictator, Marshal Josip Broz, known as Tito, whose death in 1980 eventually led to years of instability, wars, and the eventual breakup of the multiethnic nation into six states, including Croatia. Klinger was the main force behind "Tito — The Secret Empire," a series of writings which were to be made into an explosive documentary revealing that Tito's allies are still very much entwined in the leadership ranks of the various ex-Yugoslav states.

"Klinger's death is a big loss and a heavy punch for our ambitions," said Klinger's partner in the project, Denis Kuljis.

Klinger had recently been unable to find a full-time job as an academic and had been working as a toll collector.

A Croatian source told Metro that Klinger's accusations made him the target of "speeches of hate" and sub-rosa whispers that he was "the public enemy and the double agent." So how does that all tie him to Bonich, who is expected back in a Queens courtroom Feb. 17?

Croatian murder in Queens

1 William Klinger had come to New York on Jan. 24 and was staying in New Jersey and at the home of fellow Croatian Alexander Bonich in Astoria, Queens.

2 NYPD detectives said Bonich told them Klinger was supposed to sell him land he owned in northeast Italy.

3 Under questioning by NYPD detectives, Bonich confessed that he shot Klinger in the back of the head "over a failed real estate deal in northeast Italy."

Source: Metro staff reports GRAPHIC BY BILLY BECERRA, METRO

Croat cloaked in mystery

The Astoria pool where Klinger (inset) was shot; at top right, a neighbor leaves Bonich's apartment building in Astoria; at bottom right, the spot in the East River where Bonich allegedly threw the pistol he used to kill Klinger. at bottom, the mailbox at Bonich's apartment. /ALAN CHIN, METRO

For one thing, sources say, Bonich is not his original name.

He was born Aleksandar Soldatic. He has also used the name Alex Rudolf de Domini. His Astoria mailbox also lists him as Rudy Bonich. Bonich is the surname of a noble family from Croatia's picturesque island of Rab in the Adriatic Sea.

The Croatian sources add: He has allegedly lied in the past about his ties to CUNY's Hunter College, about being a member of the Italian community in Croatia's port city of Rijeka, and about going to high school in that city.

Bonich is believed to have indeed met Klinger in Rijeka at some point, but the nature of their friendship remains cloudy.

Some Croats suspect Klinger may have known some dark secrets about Bonich and his false identities — and perhaps something far more sinister.

The Queens DA listed the suspect's address as 25-66 42nd Street in Astoria, where he was an even greater mystery.

"Nobody knows him," a longtime resident said. Another said she hadn't seen him in three years. Yet another said he was in the apartment one or two months a year and that his octogenarian mother would come now and then to clean the place.

Astoria residents seemed most relieved that Klinger and his confessed killer — who cops traced via area surveillance cameras — were known to each other and that they didn't have to fear a rogue gunman was on the loose.

The DA's office said the slaying is still under investigation. Bonich's lawyer, Harry Ramirez, did not return a call for comment.

Bonich told cops he tossed the antique pistol he used to kill Klinger into the East River.

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PSH1

Union Square

Ballet of butchery at Union Square

Cops are on the lookout for a man who used his hands and a box cutter to send four New Yorkers in and around Union Square to the hospital early Wednesday morning.

Authorities said the unidentified assailant started his spree at around 1:20 a.m.

The suspect — described as a heavyset black man wearing a white hooded sweater, black vest, blue jeans and red sneakers — jumped on an uptown 4 train at the Broadway and Lafayette station then punched a 35-year-old man in the face.

The blade-wielding suspect stepped off of the train at Union Square and slapped a 20-year-old woman.

Exiting the station at the 14th Street and Fourth Avenue exit, he attacked a 46-year-old man for $2. The man refused, and the suspect slashed the man's face and turned to cross the street.

He crossed 14th Street to approach a 59-year-old man waiting at a bus stop.

The man refused to give the assailant a dollar and became the fourth and last known victim of the night with a slash to the face.

All four victims were taken to Bellevue Hospital in stable condition. Cops are still trying to identify and locate the attacker. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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Harry Briggs Jr. joins students, faculty, and special guests at Evander Childs School to talk about black history month. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Civil rights vets recall the struggle

Education. Times are different, but problems remain, Bronx teens say.

High school students growing up in the Bronx today face a different set of struggles than teenagers during the civil rights era who marched, rode, sat in and died for equal rights, says Kamrin Pressley, 14, a ninth grader and student council president at Harry S. Truman High School.

"They struggle with immaturity," Pressley said when asked about the struggles of teenagers in the Bronx today. "And they listen to these rappers that only rap about violence and call girls out their name, calling guys out their name, using the same words they used a long time ago. My friends know for a fact you do not call me out my name."

Pressley was one of dozens of high school students who got to hear from several living, breathing connections to the civil rights movement on Wednesday.

The event, hosted at Evander Childs High School by Bronx Councilman Andy King and the Bronx Youth Empowerment Program, included an appearance by Harry Briggs Jr., who was the lead petitioner on a segregated busing case in South Carolina that paved the way for the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling.

Henry Singleton, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a teenager in Alabama, and is now a union organizer in New York, gave the keynote address to a silent, rapt audience of high school students. Some students cried as Singleton recalled how a gunman took half of the civil right leader's head off in Memphis.

"It makes a difference, hearing from someone who has been through it," Pressley said afterward. "You see their emotion and their passion more than reading it or seeing in a movie."

Briggs' case was featured in a law class Pressley is taking, but her teachers "don't really get down into details" when they teach black history from a textbook, she said.

Keyron Scott, 18, was one of many students who stood up in the room when Singleton asked who planned to go to college and stick with it.

"The speech kinda changed how I think," said Scott of Singleton's talk. "We need more leaders who unite us."

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Bad rap

Bronx Defenders who appeared in anti-police rap video resign

Two attorneys with the Bronx Defenders who appeared in an anti-police rap video resigned on Wednesday, the New York Post reported. Ryan Napoli and Kumar Rao were seen in a video called "Hands Up" that showed guns held to the head of a police officer.

The Defenders suspended its director, Robin Steinberg, for 60 days without pay.

The city's Department of Investigation determined this week that Steinberg did not sufficiently discipline Napoli and Rai. The group received more than $40 million from the city since 2013 for indigent defense.

BLOOMBERG

Agreed. Bratton, PBA chief want resisting arrest a felony

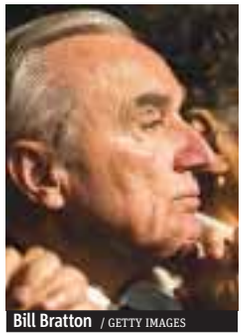
NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton and Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Pat Lynch found common ground Wednesday as both called for more severe punishment against New Yorkers who struggle against arrests.

The top cop testified that the NYPD exercised discipline and restraint, especially during the recent protests supporting police reform, but that more people are fighting back.

"Too many people still resist arrest," Bratton told a panel of state Senators in Manhattan on Wednesday. "I'm very supportive of the idea of increased penalties."

Currently, New York State law treats resisting of arrest as a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail.

Bratton told senators he supported the idea of resisting arrest being reclassified as an E felony, which can carry up to four years in jail.



Bill Bratton / GETTY IMAGES

Lynch also proposed a slate of PBA-drafted bills that would make various threats and attacks on officers felonies.

"We believe this change in law is necessary to deter the type of conduct we saw during last month's demonstrations," Lynch testified.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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Web of deceit

Silk Road chief convicted

The founder of the Silk Road website faces life in prison for running an underground Internet emporium that catered to hackers and drug traffickers.

Ross Ulbricht, 30, who used the moniker "Dread Pirate Roberts," offered people the chance to anonymously buy illegal merchandise and services with bitcoins. On Wednesday, a jury took about three hours to find him guilty on all seven federal charges.

Ulbricht supporters
GETTY IMAGES

Wearing a navy jacket, blue shirt and tan pants, Ulbricht didn't have a visible reaction to the verdict.

His parents, Lyn and Kirk Ulbricht, both dropped their heads, while some of Ulbricht's supporters wept.

"Ross is a hero," Derrick Broze of Houston shouted as U.S. District Judge Katherine Forrest was wrapping up the proceedings.

Prosecutors had claimed Ulbricht ran the $1.2 billion empire from 2011 to 2013.

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Gun control activists protest at the Brooklyn Bridge. / GETTY IMAGES

Report shows gun violence plague in city

Brooklyn. Borough president wants to see technology used to curb problem.

Even as murder rates go down, gun violence is on the rise and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams has a plan to stop it.

A report set to be released Thursday shows Brooklyn neighborhoods continued to be plagued by gun violence even though the 2014 murder rate for New York City was at an all-time low, and the state ranks third lowest for per capita firearm deaths.

Crown Heights, Flatbush and East New York had the three highest homicide rates for youths aged 15-24, with 41.9 homicides per 100,000 in Crown Heights, 29.8 in Flatbush and 26.9 in East New York. Crown Heights also leads the city in firearm related hospitalizations, with 123.8 per 100,000 youth compared to a city average of 36.4.

"We really want to send a message that smart technology should be embraced by gun manufacturers to ensure dumb people don't hurt smart people by using handguns," Adams told Metro.

Among Adams' key recommendations is a call to the NYPD to develop a pilot program that uses fingerprint recognition technology to fire guns, as well as mount micro-cameras on guns that record activity after a gun is drawn. Adams, a retired police captain, said an NYPD pilot is the best way to safely test out technology.

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Terrorist

9/11 conspirator says Saudi royals backed al Qaeda

A former al Qaeda operative, imprisoned for life for his role in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, has told lawyers for the victims of those attacks that members of the Saudi royal family supported the Islamic militant group.

Zacarias Moussaoui made the statements in testimony filed in Manhattan federal court on Tuesday by lawyers for the victims who accuse Saudi Arabia of providing material support to al Qaeda.

He said a list of donors from the late '90s that he drafted during al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's tenure included some "extremely famous" Saudi officials, including Prince Turki al-Faisal Al Saud, a former Saudi intelligence chief.

"Shaykh Osama wanted to keep a record who give money because ... who is to be listened to or who contribute to ... to the jihad," said Moussaoui, a 46-year-old French native, who pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in 2005.

Moussaoui said he met in Kandahar with an official from Saudi Arabia's Washington embassy. Moussaoui said they were supposed to go to Washington together to find a location "suitable to launch a stinger attack" on Air Force One.

The testimony was filed in opposition to Saudi Arabia's latest bid to dismiss lawsuits that began more than a decade ago. REUTERS

Zacarias Moussaoui / SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Moussaoui is a deranged criminal whose own lawyers presented evidence that he was mentally incompetent. ... His words have no credibility."

Saudi embassy

Romney's exit boosts Walker's odds in NH

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker speaks with Fred Malek at the American Action Forum in Washington, D.C. / GETTY IMAGES

GOP meeting. Walker plans to make his first visit of the campaign season to New Hampshire next month.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's decision not to make a third White House run in 2016 has boosted Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's chances with Republican voters in New Hampshire, home to the first presidential primary, according to a poll released on Wednesday.

The finding from the Feb. 2-3 poll of 1,012 respondents, conducted days after Romney said he would not make a third run at the White House, marked a sharp change from a poll two weeks earlier that showed Romney was favored by about 29 percent of likely voters, a commanding lead.

This week's poll, which had a 3.1 percentage point margin of error, showed Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, retired surgeon and Tea Party favorite Ben Carson and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie rounding out the top five candidates.

Walker commanded national attention for taking on powerful unions in his home state of Wisconsin. REUTERS

Republican voters

21.2%

Some 21.2 percent of Republican voters and independents polled by Reach Communications for NH1 News who said they would likely vote in the state's presidential nominating primary said they would vote for Walker. That gave Walker a solid lead over former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who had the support of 14.4 percent of likely voters.

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Taiwan plane crashes into Taipei river after takeoff, killing 25

Air traffic control. The last communication from one of the pilots was "Mayday Mayday, engine flameout."

Dash-cam video of the out-of-control plane before the crash

A TransAsia Airways plane with 58 passengers and crew on board careered into a river shortly after taking off from a downtown Taipei airport on Wednesday, killing 25 people, officials said.

Fifteen people survived the crash after the plane lurched between buildings, clipped a taxi and an overpass with its port-side wing and crashed upside down in the shallow water.

Dramatic pictures taken by a motorist and posted on Twitter showed the plane careening over the motorway soon after the turboprop ATR 72-600 aircraft took off in apparently clear weather on a domestic flight for the island of Kinmen.

"I've never seen anything like this," a volunteer rescuer surnamed Chen said of the most recent in a series of disasters to hit Asian carriers in the past 12 months.

Television footage showed survivors wearing life jackets wading and swimming clear of wreckage. Others, including a young child, were taken to shore in inflatable boats.

Emergency rescue officials crowded around the partially submerged fuselage of flight GE235, lying on its side in the river, trying to help those on board.

The plane missed

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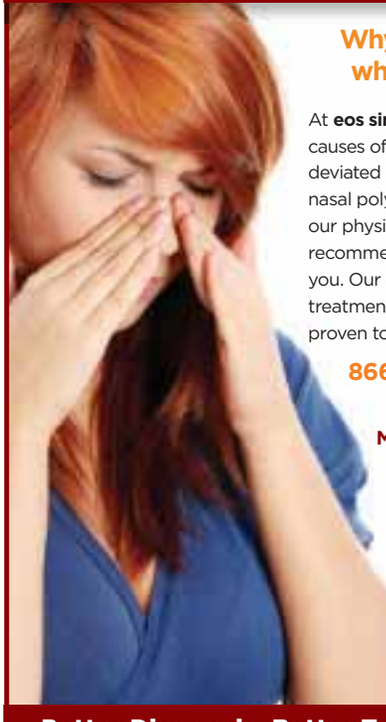

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Rescue personnel work to free passengers from a TransAsia ATR 72-600 turboprop plane that crash-landed into a river outside Taiwan's capital Taipei in New Taipei City. / GETTY IMAGES

apartment buildings by mere yards, though it was not clear if that was luck or whether the pilot was aiming for the river. Footage showed a van skidding to a halt on the damaged overpass after barely missing the plane's wing, with small pieces of the aircraft scattered along the road.

The chief executive of TransAsia, Peter Chen, bowed deeply at a televised news conference as he apologized to passengers and crew.

Tourists from Xiamen

31

A statement from China's Taiwan Affairs Office said 31 of those on board were tourists from the southeastern city of Xiamen, which lies close to Taiwan's Kinmen island.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said his government had offered Taiwan any help necessary following the crash.

The head of Taiwan's civil aviation authority, Lin Tyh-ming, said the aircraft last underwent maintenance on Jan. 26. The pilot had 4,916 flying hours under his belt and the co-pilot had 6,922 hours, he said. REUTERS

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Lady Gaga is bad at keeping secrets, Pam Grier is full of ideas, Forest Whitaker is keeping it positive, Matt Bomer is ... going somewhere and Billy Eichner thinks selfies are the way forward.

@ladygaga: Had a beautiful session with Sir Paul McCartney and friends. Working on one of his many secret projects!

@PamGrier: Offer massage therapy treatments as gifts this winter! Valentine's Day is near. Hot stone, reflexology for feet and hands! Wellness!

@ForestWhitaker: Hope can inspire us, move us & guide us—no matter the challenges & barriers we face along the way. Continue to believe #peace

@MattBomer: Here we go!

@billyeichner: Just took a picture of myself. The world would be a better place if people took more of these.

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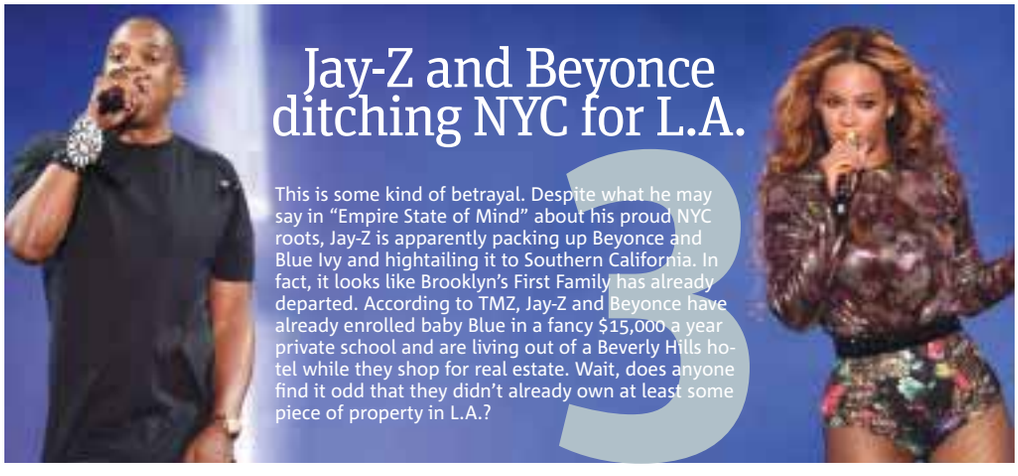
1 Stop everything, the new 'Magic Mike' trailer is here

Ladies of Tampa, this might be a good reason to take a personal day. The first trailer for "Magic Mike XXL," this summer's sequel to the hit Channing Tatum stripper-fest, is now online. Sure, there's no Matthew McConaughey in this one (nor Alex Pettyfer), but is that such a problem? So, how does it look? Let's just say Tatum clearly spent more time in the gym before this than he did "Jupiter Ascending." The poor guy can't even get any welding done without slipping into a hip-thrusting dance routine. As the trailer boldly states, you're welcome.



3 Jay-Z and Beyonce ditching NYC for L.A.

This is some kind of betrayal. Despite what he may say in "Empire State of Mind" about his proud NYC roots, Jay-Z is apparently packing up Beyonce and Blue Ivy and hightailing it to Southern California. In fact, it looks like Brooklyn's First Family has already departed. According to TMZ, Jay-Z and Beyonce have already enrolled baby Blue in a fancy $15,000 a year private school and are living out of a Beverly Hills hotel while they shop for real estate. Wait, does anyone find it odd that they didn't already own at least some piece of property in L.A.?

4 Cosby loses another ally in Sidney Poitier

That is some serious side eye.

Longtime Bill Cosby pal and collaborator Sidney Poitier is said to be "utterly disgusted" by the comedy legend following the staggering number of women coming forward accusing him of sexual abuse, according to the National Enquirer. "I can tell you that Mr. Poitier is terribly disgusted by what Bill Cosby has done, and he feels sorry for him," a source says. "Look at Sidney Poitier — unblemished, untainted and distinguished. Look at Bill Cosby. Thirty women, they're not all lying." But don't expect Poitier himself to go on record shaming Cosby. "He's dignified, and remains that way," the source explains. "Which is why he will say nothing about Cosby." I guess this means no "Uptown Saturday Night" reunion, then?

Daily video

CINEFIX / YOUTUBE

It's kids' day at the Oscars

Sure, you could go to a ridiculously long AMC Theaters marathon of all the Best Picture nominations, but wouldn't it be great if there were something quicker — and way, way cuter? Well, we have a solution for you. Once again, CineFix grabbed some budding thespians and made "Kids Reenact 2015 Oscar Nominees," poking fun at the films vying for the top prize. It's a tough call which is the best, but their "Imitation Game," "Boyhood" and "Selma" clips are definitely up there. And even kids are freaked out by the "American Sniper" fake baby situation.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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2 Paris Hilton's brother doesn't like 'peasants'

Well, this is completely charming. Conrad Hilton, younger brother of Paris and namesake of his hotel magnate grandfather, appeared in court this week to face charges he was an absolute terror on a Los Angeles-bound British Airways flight last summer. According to an FBI affidavit, Hilton nearly hit a flight attendant, appeared delusional and erratic and had to be restrained for landing. He also dropped the F-bomb 25 times, and here are probably the best two of those times: "If you want to square up to me, bro, then bring it and I will f–ing fight you" and — my favorite — "I will f–ing own anyone on this flight. They are f–ing peasants." Ah, the noble class.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

How to get away with being very mysterious

Interview. Liza Weil says Bonnie's motivations are hard to define on "How to Get Away with Murder".

Watch "How to Get Away with Murder" Thursdays at 10 p.m. on ABC. / MITCH HAASETH, ABC

"How to Get Away with Murder" gets a lot of its shocking moments out of gradually revealing its characters' secrets, but Liza Weil's Bonnie has remained something of a mystery. She's Annalise's right hand man, but Annalise (Viola Davis) chooses to leave her in the dark about certain things, and she often serves as a silent witness to the shenanigans going on around her.

Weil says it's been a challenge playing someone who keeps so much of her motivation secret. "It's hard to play somebody mysterious because they can't be a mystery to you," she says. "You have to make your own choices and hope it's interesting."

The show's hiatus between the first nine episodes and the later ones has been a boon for her. "Until you get a few episodes under your belt, you're not really sure if what you're doing is landing," says Weil. "It was great to be able to watch those nine episodes. I felt like I got a handle on her more by watching them and seeing what the context of the show was."

"IT'S HARD TO PLAY SOMEBODY MYSTERIOUS BECAUSE THEY CAN'T BE A MYSTERY TO YOU," SAYS WEIL. "YOU HAVE TO KIND OF MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES AND HOPE THAT IT'S INTERESTING."
GETTY IMAGES

While the first set of episodes dealt with the mystery of who killed Annalise's husband Sam, the latter set deal with fallout. "The big theme of the next episodes is consequences, and all the relationships are going to be shifting and changing from episode to episode," says Weil. "Bonnie is going to have to really be stepping up with Annalise. That relationship has shifted so much and so much has happened between them."

To say the two have a complicated relationship is putting it lightly. "It's very complicated," confirms Weil. "I've always imagined that Bonnie is somebody who never had a core group of people in her life. Her family was probably disappointing to her, and I don't imagine she's in contact with those people. Annalise, Frank and Sam became her weird screwy family."

Hookups

Truth and consequences

Though some of the liaisons on the show have been telegraphed from the start, there was one that was fairly surprising: The night of the murder, Bonnie hooked up with Matt McGorry's uber-bro Asher. "There are certainly going to be consequences for Bonnie sleeping with Asher," says Weil. Those consequences have already appeared in the first episode back, as Asher confessed to the police that he'd been with her the night of the murder.

While the pairing was a bit of a surprise, Weil says she and McGorry were predicting it. "We were all sort of sitting around one night and we were speculating, if the show got picked up, what would the hookups be? And everyone was kind of spoken for, almost, but it also seemed like the most far-fetched thing ever."

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

Jeff Bridges goes deep

In "Seventh Son," Jeff Bridges plays a "spook," or witch hunter, who takes under his wing an apprentice (Ben Barnes). / LEGENDARY PICTURES AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Interview. The acting legend talks his new fantasy film "Seventh Son," recites Russian poetry and sings some Bob Dylan.

"Seventh Son" may be a pricey, fantasy movie depicting the battle between a witch hunter (Jeff Bridges) and a villainous shape-shifter (Julianne Moore, with a tail). But it touches on enough heady ideas that Bridges can extrapolate upon them, going off on his own ideas on fate, good versus evil and how his co-star should handle her current Oscar business. It's also, mind you, a "Big Lebowski" reunion that pits The Dude against Moore's Maude Lebowski.

On the way the film explores fate and the cosmos

"As The Dude might say, this is just my opinion, man, but you have the universe, you have black holes and all that stuff we don't know about yet. Yet here we are. Somehow the universe has come out of the universe. Alan Watts, he would say apple trees make apples, and the universe makes peoples. It's kind of destiny, I guess, or fate that here we are."

Good and evil

Despite setting up Bridges' character as the hero and Moore as the villain, the lines are blurred. Their characters are ex-paramours, and his betrayal of her made her dangerous. "One of the things I was hoping the film could convey is that rather than the terrible battle between good and evil, it could go deeper than that. In my research I came across this quote by [Aleksandr] Solzhenitsyn: 'If only there were evil people somewhere, insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line between good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?' I'm hoping that is in the movie somewhere."

"ONE OF THE THINGS I WAS HOPING THE FILM COULD CONVEY IS THAT RATHER THAN THE TERRIBLE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, IT COULD GO DEEPER THAN THAT," JEFF BRIDGES SAYS OF "SON." GETTY IMAGES

Dylan talk

The film's portrayal of a mentor-student relationship — between him and Ben Barnes' apprentice — made him think of another great poet. "I was thinking of that great Bob Dylan song: [sings] 'Ring them bells, ye heathens, from the city that dreams.' I say to Ben's character: Remember those things I taught you? Don't listen. Don't follow any of those things. Follow your heart. This is a journey that human beings are on. There's still problems we haven't solved — this problem of evil and how we deal with that, not only our projections of evil out there but the evil in our own hearts."

Still abiding

He's a Lebowski, she's a Lebowski

"Seventh Son" also serves as an unlikely reunion between Bridges and Moore, both "Lebowski" alumni. Moore is a frontrunner for an Oscar for her turn as an Alzheimer's patient in "Still Alice," though Bridges — who won his trophy for "Crazy Heart" — isn't sure how to help her.

"I don't really have any advice. We talked about it, acknowledged that feeling of having that appreciation come at you like that — it's pretty wonderful. And all the anxiety and silly obsessions about beating yourself up for not remembering that guy's name."

He does have one piece of advice, and it sounds very The Dude-ish: "Just go with the ride, surf that wave!"

JULIANNE MOORE WIREIMAGE

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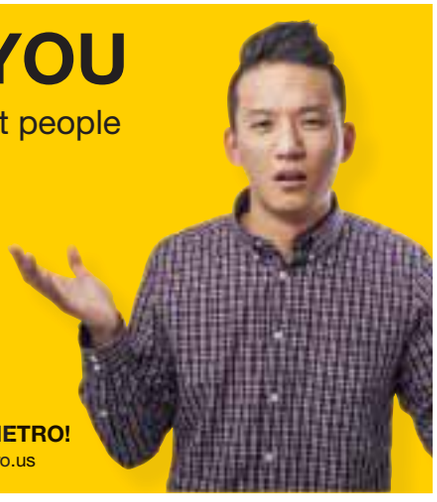

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Geek Girl in Hollywood

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JENNA BUSCH TAKES ON THE WAY POP CULTURE SNUBS ITS FEMALE FANS. VISIT METRO.US/JENNA-BUSCH

MORE TOYS FOR GIRLS

As someone who, as a little girl, played with Princess Leia action figures and a ray gun instead of Barbies, gender bias in toy sales is pretty frustrating. Now, I'm talking about back when the first "Star Wars" film came out. We poor young ladies in the '70s had so little if we liked sci-fi. It's so much better today… yeah, I'm lying. It's shocking to realize how little has changed.

When "Guardians of the Galaxy" arrived this summer, trying to find Gamora toys was an impossible task. When you looked up shirts and backpacks with the team, guess who was missing. The hashtag #WheresGamora was born, which started up a whole new discussion.

All of a sudden we saw things like shirts for young girls that said, "Training to be Batman's Wife" and DC's shirts for men that said, "I Want to Be a Hero" — and the female counterpart that said, "I Need a Hero." Even "Star Wars Rebels," which has some strong female characters, brought out the figures of the male characters first. It's a sad commentary on how Hollywood sees female fans. About half of the moviegoers who saw "Guardians" opening weekend were women.

You'll often hear studio people say it's all about money. Well, I have money, Marvel — take it! I have it right here in my hand and I'm willing to buy. And I'm not the only one. We female geeks are legion, and we want you to hear us! Are you really afraid of Gamora and Black Widow action figures sitting on the shelf? Don't worry. They'll all end up on my desk.

Zoe Saldana's Gamora, above, in "Guardians of the Galaxy." A macho Superman-Wonder Woman tee, inset. / MARVEL, PROVIDED

Bonus thought

One solution

We do have people like Ashley Eckstein (voice of Ahsoka Tano in "Star Wars: The Clone Wars") who started "Her Universe," a place for geek lady clothing and all the lovely people creating things like stuffed Black Widow plushies, dancing Groot-in-a-pot headbands and gender-swapped Han Solo hoodies.

What we need now is the Powers That Be to remember that some ladies don't really care for pink pony tiaras and giant big-eyed wasp-waisted princesses, and some gentlemen do.

We don't want to be put in a box. Well, unless it's a Black Edition Boba Fett action figure box. Totally put me in that one.

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Broadway.
Nteliseng Nkhela gives us a tour.

Visit **Metro.us** for more photos from backstage at "The Lion King."

If only we could all age as gracefully as "The Lion King." After 17 years on Broadway, the groundbreaking theatrical spectacle became the highest-grossing show of all time this past September.

Last month, The Broadway League released its complete data set from 2014 — the highest-grossing, most-attended year to date in theater history. And it's no surprise that the highest-grossing show overall for the second year in a row is Disney's "The Lion King."

The stage adaptation of the animated family film took home the title despite the fact that six shows had a higher average ticket price, and at least 15 other shows had higher top-priced tickets.

We went behind the scenes with South African-born Nteliseng Nkhela, who plays the enigmatic Rafiki, to try and figure out some of the secrets to this show's indefatigable success. Here's what we saw, in an exclusive sneak peek:

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
letters@metro.us

About 25 minutes before the curtain goes up, Nkhela meets with her personal makeup artist to begin the long process of perfecting her Rafiki look.

Nkhela gives us a glance at her famous megawatt smile when her makeup is finally complete.

ALL PHOTOS BY MILES DIXON, METRO

at 'The Lion King'

Once her makeup is complete, Nkhela puts on her headpiece and prepares to get into place for the opening number. Her dressing room is shared with two other women, but her private mirror is an homage of love and support from her family and friends.

The bamboo fingers are usually the last pieces of the costume for Rafiki — and probably the lightest. Nkhela tells us that the costume is "a little heavy," and "warm," but comfortable. "They should make this a pajama set!" she jokes.

"The Circle of Life" opens the show, with Nkhela alone carrying the famous opening lyrics. She is one of nearly 250 South Africans employed by productions of "The Lion King" throughout the world, including leads, ensemble cast, musicians and members of the crew.

"Before I start 'Circle of Life,' I get very nervous," Nkhela tells us. "I try and find a space before and just be quiet and focus. That's the hardest

part of the show for me, the opening number, and even now I cannot get used to that. After that, I know everything is easy."

"The Circle of Life" evokes Nkhela's best memories. "During the opening I can see the reaction of the audience — seeing how happy they are, seeing them get emotional when the animals are coming from everywhere," she says. "It makes me so happy to see them excited."

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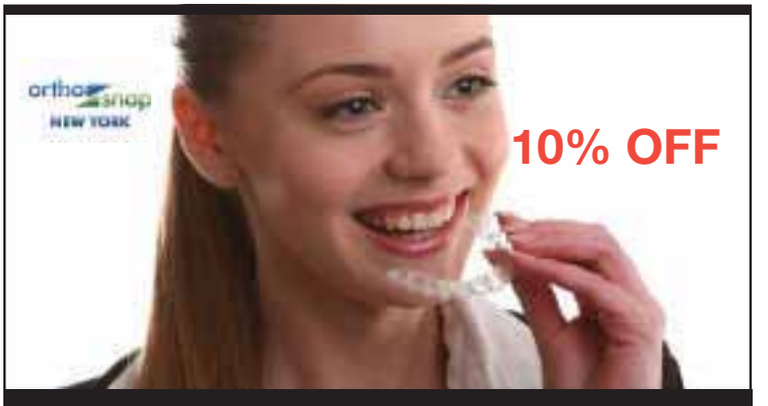

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The art of Amsterdam

From van Gogh to Lichtenstein — our pick of the city's best art collections.

JL MARSHALL/RIJKSMUSEUM

B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM

Baltimore celebrates Black History Month

Fascinating and evocative exhibits chart the African-American experience.

Butterflies in Massachusetts snow

Discover a tropical paradise nestled in Western Massachusetts' historic Pioneer Valley.

ISTOCK

The art of Amsterdam

In recent years Amsterdam's art museums have been closing for refurbishment and taking temporary homes, but it's now business as usual. Here's a guide to these rich cultural collections.

The three main museums are a few minutes from each other in the Museum Quarter. It's tempting to try to fit them all in on the same day, but you really need a couple of days to do them justice. The Van Gogh Museum gets especially busy, so arrive well before opening time to beat the crowds.

The Rijksmuseum

www.rijksmuseum.nl

The national art museum of The Netherlands has a core collection of about a million items, and with roughly 8,000 of those on display at any one time, you're not going to get through it quickly. Don't miss the extensive Rembrandt collection and other Dutch artists including Vermeer, van Gogh, Jan Steen and Frans Hals. There are also large displays of Delftware. This year sees a Late Rembrandt exhibition (Feb. 12–May 17), bringing together over 100 of his works from all over the world.

The Van Gogh Museum

www.vangoghmuseum.nl

This bright, modern museum houses the world's largest van Gogh collection. It offers a fascinating insight into the artist's development, and a chance to see many of his lesser-known works. The museum also shows how he was influenced by Asian art and has a collection of work by the artist's contemporaries including Rodin, Gauguin, Manet, Monet, Seurat and Toulouse-Lautrec. It gets very crowded so try to get there early, and allow time to browse the gift shop.

The Stedelijk Museum

www.stedelijk.nl

The city's modern art museum shows that Amsterdam's art is not just about the Old Masters and van Gogh. Its exciting pop art collection includes work by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Jasper Johns. Other artists featured in the core collection include Chagall, Mondrian and Kandinsky, and there are also collections of furniture, photographs, videos, posters and textiles.

INSIGHT GUIDES | MIKE GERRARD AND DONNA DAILEY

Must-see paintings

- **"The Night Watch" by Rembrandt (Rijksmuseum)** This colossal canvas, a Rembrandt masterpiece, has its own room in the Rijksmuseum. "The Night Watch" is considered one of the finest paintings in the world.
- **"The Milkmaid" by Johannes Vermeer (Rijksmuseum)** Vermeer is, like Rembrandt, a master of both capturing light on canvas and seeming to capture a subject's innermost thoughts.
- **"Sunflowers" by Vincent van Gogh (Van Gogh Museum)** Painted in Arles in 1899, "Sunflowers" has become one of the most famous of van Gogh's paintings.
- **"Wheatfield with Crows" by Vincent van Gogh (Van Gogh Museum)** This dramatic work was one of the tortured artist's final paintings, and though it seems to suggest an inner turmoil, he himself felt it captured the turmoil in the countryside around him.
- **"As I Opened Fire" by Roy Lichtenstein (Stedelijk Museum)** This blazingly colorful triptych in comic-book style is one of the most famous pop art paintings ever made.

Baltimore celebrates Black History Month

Few cities have as rich an African-American history as Baltimore. Before the Civil War, it had the largest population of free blacks in the country. Frederick Douglass and Eubie Blake both lived here, and Oprah Winfrey honed her broadcast skills at a local TV station.

VISIT BALTIMORE

DEAN RAY/VISIT BALTIMORE

During Black History Month, many venues will recognize the contributions of African Americans. **The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture (www.rflewismuseum.org)** presents "For Whom It Stands: The Flag and the American People." Historic and contemporary documents, art and artifacts examine the role of the flag's symbolism in society.

At the **B&O Railroad Museum (www.borail.org)**, a new exhibit details the contributions of African Americans to the development of the railroads and how social issues affected people, the economy, and social and labor movements.

The **James E. Lewis Museum of Art (www.jelmamuseum.org)** at Morgan State University opens "Celebrating Our Common Heritage in the African Diaspora – Featuring the Art of Januwa Moja and Uzikee Nelson" on Feb. 8. It will also host the African-Cuban Film Festival, starting Feb. 28.

At the **Baltimore Museum of Art (www.artbma.org)**, the African-American Collection showcases often overlooked artists. T**he National Great Blacks in Wax Museum (www.greatblacksinwax.org)** honors Africans and African Americans in history, politics, science, the military and the arts. **The Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards (www.baberuthmuseum.org)** tells the inspiring story of the Negro Baseball League.

At the **Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park Museum (www.douglassmyers.org)**, visitors learn about the role African Americans played in Baltimore's vital shipbuilding industry through interactive exhibits. More history is found at the **Maryland Historical Society (www.mdhs.org)**, where Baltimore's Civil Rights era is documented in the photographs of Paul Henderson. Sections of its "Divided Voices: Maryland in the Civil War" exhibit cover the lives of free and enslaved blacks. On weekends, actors present vignettes of life in Baltimore during the war.

The Legends and Legacies Heritage Pass, available from the **Baltimore Visitor Center** and **www.baltimore.org**, gives discounted admission to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park and the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum.

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

See butterflies in Massachusetts snow

It's always summer at Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens. Tucked away in the hills near South Deerfield, Massachusetts, it's close enough to the ski resorts to make a convenient break from the slopes.

ISTOCK

A tropical garden fills the conservatory where the temperature is always 80 degrees. It's the ideal climate for the 3,000 butterflies that flutter around the foliage, waterfall and Koi-filed pond. Plenty of benches invite visitors to linger. Often the butterflies alight on their shoulders, creating a perfect photo-op.

There are educational displays and kids' activities in the buildings, but be aware that strollers are not allowed in the conservatory itself. Plan to bring a kiddie backpack or a Snuggie. There's a food court with soups and burgers, and a sit-down restaurant with a casual, family-friendly menu. The gift shop arranges orders of butterfly-friendly plants and "livestock" — butterflies appropriate for your geographic area.

Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, 281 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield, Massachussetts; 413-665-2805; www.magicwings.com

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

ISTOCK

Pick her (food) brain

Indulge. Joy Wilson of Joy the Baker inspires us to bake with her irresistible cookbook

How does Joy Wilson, the mastermind behind the indulgent baking blog, Joy the Baker, come up with those crazy-sounding-yet-delicious flavor combinations?

S'mores oozing with dark chocolate — and brie; a chocolate, peanut butter cake layered with salty pretzels; avocado ice cream!

"I call it food brain — I have a really active food brain," says Wilson. "And it's the most active when I'm the most hungry. Like standing in front of my pantry trying to figure out what delicious thing I can make."

Now you can go inside her butter, chocolate and caramel-filled mind with her latest cookbook, "Homemade Decadence: Irresistibly Sweet, Salty, Gooey, Sticky, Fluffy, Creamy, Crunchy Treats," packed with 125 creative, sublime and approachable recipes, the kind that draw two millions readers to her blog each month.

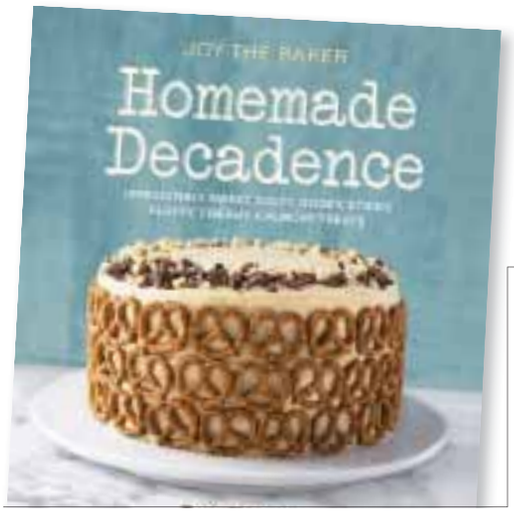
Visit **Metro.us** to find out Wilson's must-have kitchen tools.

And like the recipes she shares on her popular site, which launched in 2008, you don't need a fancy oven or culinary degree to create any of these desserts.

Wilson, a self-taught baker, who wrote the book from her tiny kitchen in California (though she's since moved to New Orleans), assures us, "All you need is a hand mixer, a bowl and a strong sweet tooth."

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Just in time for Valentine's Day. Learn how to make Wilson's decadent Brownie Pie at www.metro.us PROVIDED



Q&A

Why should people bake as opposed to stopping by the cute bakery?
"Well there's something to be said for stopping by the cute bakery. I'm never opposed to that. I just think that taking the time to make something is good for you. It makes you slow down. I try to enjoy the process of making something special for someone and giving yourself that time. Nowadays, it feels pretty indulgent."

What if you're are petrified of baking?
"People put a lot of pressure on themselves in the kitchen. I had a pastry teacher once tell me that 'ingredients can smell your fear,' and she's totally right! If you approach the kitchen with tension and nerves then it's hard to come out with something that you're going to be happy with. But if you can ease up on that a little bit, and not be as attached to the outcome — because it will be delicious— then I think you're on a good path."

How do you ease up?
"Wine helps, especially if it's pink. Practice, start with something that you're comfortable with and take little baby steps outside that comfort zone each time."

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How to plan a stylish Valentine's Day celebration

Parties. Whether you are single or coupled, you can have a fabulous day.

Create a Valentine's Day to remember. / ISTOCK

STEPHANIE COVE
PROVIDED

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, now's the perfect time to start planning how to create a memorable experience.

"I'm not one to want roses or chocolate," says event planner Stefanie Cove.

We asked Cove to share her tips for how anyone — regardless of their relationship status — can plan a fun Valentine's Day.

The perfect date

"I think that if a guy is planning the date, part of it is showing that he's paying attention to what she's interested in," Cove notes. "Has she been talking about a trendy new restaurant or bar?"

If a quiet evening at home is more your thing, Cove says planning a fun menu is key. "Something like oysters and french fries is different," she notes. "Oysters are an aphrodisiac and they are great to combine with french fries and a sparkling wine." Cove is currently working with Kim Crawford Wines and says she often pairs fried foods with something like Crawford's "Fizz."

The proposal

Popping the question

If you are ready to pop the question, Cove suggests that you avoid being overly formal. "It should be about comfort and being relaxed and not uptight," she advises. "I think it's really nice when you do something like that at home and then plan something afterward with family."

A singles party

"If you're going to have a party, it's important that it's a celebration and not a bummer," says Cove.

"Invite a bunch of single people who don't know each other and make sure there's enough seating. Also make sure that you have food that's not awkward to eat."

To make sure that people are mingling, Cove recommends having a relaxed game to get people started. "With something like this, you can get little pins with a question or statement on them so that everyone has to ask each other things," she advises.

A girls' night in

"It can be fun just to be at home with your friends watching movies," Cove notes. "In this busy life that we have, it is nice just to take time for friends."

Classic comfort foods, she advises, are perfect for an evening with girlfriends. "I like a mini-fried chicken paired with a Pinot Grigio. Or there are so many kinds of mac and cheese you can make with things like gruyere cheese."

To add a little color to your drinks, Cove has this tip: "I like to get edible flowers, which you can buy online," she explains. "Then you can freeze them into your ice cubes."

LAKSHMI GANDHI
@LakshmiGandhi
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Your kind of love

Valentine's Day. Think outside the heart-shaped box for a unique date night.

The traditional Valentine's Day of flowers, chocolates and a fancy dinner while staring into each other's eyes isn't everyone's idea of romance. Try these ideas for a date that's sure to be more memorable (and Instagram-worthy) than a plate of oysters.

For all the single ladies

You learned important lessons about love at a tender age from Leo and Claire in "Romeo + Juliet." The problematic love theme carries through the other Valentine's Week titles, which include "Sid and Nancy," "Pretty Woman" and "Manhattan." Make sure to save your napkins from the concession stand to use as tissues. **Feb. 6-15, 136 Metropolitan Ave., Williamsburg**

For the playful

Get flirty at the Museum of Sex with aphrodisiac treatments and pop-up bars within the gallery, then have your fun (but not too much fun, ahem) in "Funland" exploring the "erotic subtext" of the carnival, from a highly literal Tunnel of Love to Grope Mountain and Jump for Joy, the bounce house made of breasts. **Feb. 13 & 14, 10 a.m.-midnight, $20**

For the totally unconventional

Valentine's Day and Halloween have one thing in common: They only come around once a year. Except at Blood Manor, which combines the two into heart-shaped entrails and forlorn love motifs. Even if you don't have a special someone, bring a friend — no holding hands with the zombies. **Feb. 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m.-midnight, $30 pp, 163 Varick St.**

LINDA CLARKE
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

"Queen of the Night" is sensual every night, but things really heat up on Valentine's Day. JOAN MARCUS

For the aesthetes

Queen of the Night

Queen of the Night's flirtatious interactive theater is risque — without the risk of going home with someone else. At tables set around the stage, enjoy wine and dinner as a performance blending circus acrobatics, striptease and more unfolds. Cocktails and canapes are also included, but spring for special packages to get reserved seats (audience participation!), roses, chocolate-covered strawberries, oysters and a VIP bar. **$390-$1,200 per couple Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Diamond Horseshoe at the Paramount Hotel, 235 W. 46th St.**

"Romeo + Juliet" BAZMARK FILMS

Date idea

For the almost-lovers

Craigslist has become the real-life version of "Brief Encounter," the ultimate tearjerker set in a train station. To honor public transportation's role in our city's romantic life, the New York Transit Museum is throwing a Missed Connections Party. Hosted by OKCupid founder Christian Rudder, the fifth annual bash features poetry created from anonymous classifieds, NuNu chocolates and Brooklyn wines and beers. **Feb. 12, 6 p.m. $15 pp (includes one drink), Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn**

Missed Connections / ANDREW HINDERAKER, NYC TRANSIT MUSEUM

Dining out. Some of our favorite Valentine's Day treats

Davio's pastry chef Genevieve Meli is known for her intricate constructions that look almost too good to eat (almost). If you're planning to make the night extra special with a proposal, hide the ring inside the Gold & Glitter Chocolate Box ($40), dusted with gold and filled with handmade bonbons, available through Feb. 14. **447 Lexington Ave.**

If you're hitting the town with a group, head to **Pergola**, which has shed the good-girl charm of its flower shop origins and brims with sexy sophistication. Parties of five can get a bottle of Moet Chandon, two carafes of cocktails, a Mediterranean tasting platter and strawberry hearts kabobs ($325). **36 W. 28th St.**

Root & Bone ($65 pp, $95 with pairings) is for the couple who have been together long enough that Feb. 14 doesn't have to be an over-the-top affair. The prix fixe menu of comfort food with a Southern twist includes lobster corn spoon bread with buttermilk cream and Janine's Meatloaf, made with short ribs and accompanied by a note about how it brought chefs Jeff and Janine together. **200 E. Third St.**

Whether you want your Khaleesi moment or as a screw-you gesture at love, sink your teeth into Wagyu beef heart as part of **Church Street Tavern's** six-course tasting menu ($170 for two). They're also dishing up pumpkin bisque, which sounds plenty sexy in this weather, and seared scallops in uni beurre blanc. **313 Church St.** EVA KIS

Proposing this V Day? Tuck the ring inside a decadent Gold & Glitter Chocolate Box at Davio's. / PROVIDED

my city. now. metro

Cook up some love

Having one fancy dinner is fine, but how about spending time together learning to make something you can both enjoy for years to come?

Corkbuzz

Chef A.J. Schaller, who's worked in the Daniel kitchen, will lead an artisanal dessert tutorial on chocolate truffles and other bite-size pretty desserts, with wine pairings (of course). *Feb. 14, noon, $75, 13 E. 13th St.*

Pazzi Pasta

Make ravioli and pesto from scratch, then enjoy it together over a bottle of wine or Champagne. *Feb. 14 & 15, 10 a.m., $95 per couple, 227 Smith St., Carroll Gardens*

Voilà Chocolat

Can't go wrong with a classic: Learn to dip and decorate chocolate strawberries. There are also daily classes on the art of the truffle, chocolate bar and lollipop. *Daily through Feb. 14, $75 per person, 221 W. 79th St.*

Giovanni Rana Pastificio and Cucina

Make ravioli two ways — spicy king crab and a heart-shaped chocolate, hazelnut and orange dessert — which you get to take home. For dinner, you get a glass of prosecco and a meal of the same dish, but cooked by the chef. *Feb. 12, 7 p.m., $180 per couple, 75 Ninth Ave.*

Dos Caminos

Chef Ivy Stark will hold a demonstration-style class on two dishes (including chile chocolate mousse) and spiked Mexican hot chocolate. *Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m., $75 per person, 373 Park Ave. S.*

Fashion

SI Swimsuit Fan Festival

Feb. 9-10
Herald Square
Free, www.SI.com
Ever dream of meeting a real Sports Illustrated swimsuit model? Well, you'll have the chance to meet 20 of them at Swim City. The two days will be filled with fan events ranging from live concerts to interactive exhibits, plus interviews and autograph sessions with the models — and it's all free.

Arts

MetFridays

Feb. 6
Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Ave.
Free with admission, www.metmuseum.org
This real-life "Night at the Museum" just kicked off, with select galleries staying open until 9 p.m., with special programming, food and drinks. This week, see if you've got museum-worthy skills at a drawing class, take a guided tour, or see "Obsession," ($45) a performance based on the "Madame Cezanne" exhibit.

Valentine's Day

PROVIDED

India & Ismael Miranda: Enamarados

Feb. 7, 8 p.m. & 11 p.m.
Lehman Center, 250 Bedford Park Blvd. W., Bronx, $50-$65, www.lehmancenter.org
Ismael Miranda is the most-recorded salsa singer in the world, and India is hailed as the Princess of Salsa. You'd think these two would be performing together all the time, right? Actually, they are taking the stage together for the first time ever. Where did they get the idea to join forces and arguably double the heat of NYC's nightlife scene? It's in honor of Valentine's Day.

Nightlife

TWIRL Sats

Feb. 7, 10 p.m.-4 a.m.
Taj II, 48 W. 21st St.
Free entry with RSVP
Here's a deal that's worth staying up for: Text "CLUBPLANET" to 83361 to RSVP for TWIST, a party this Saturday night at the event space and restaurant Taj II. That gets you to the front of the line and inside without a cover. Women get two free drinks from 10-11:30 p.m. while everyone enjoys two-for-ones until midnight. There's bottle service, hookah and a mix of hip-hop, house and Top 40 on the stereo.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY

Black history, then and now

Commemorate.
Black history is New York's, too.

Trombonist Delfeayo Marsalis plays at the American Museum of Natural History on Feb. 28. / GETTY IMAGES

'Respond'

Recent cases of black men dying at the hands of police officers have spurred a new movement calling for accountability and ending racial profiling. Smack Mellon gallery is holding a community dialogue through its current exhibition, "Respond," with works by 200 artists and related events held almost daily, including poetry readings, films, a discussion on the history of nonviolent activism and, on Valentine's Day, a "Tough Love" workshop on protest letters written by artists of color to cultural institutions from the '60s to the present.
Through Feb. 22, 92 Plymouth St., Brooklyn

'After Afropolitan'

More than two dozen artists explore the experience and imagination of the African diaspora through this exhibit at Weeksville Heritage Center, a living museum of 1800s-era homes that were part of a free black community.
Through March 6, $5, 158 Buffalo Ave., Brooklyn

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

Film

'Tell It Like It Is: Black Independents in New York, 1968-1986'
Feb. 6-19, Lincoln Center

Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It" launched a new era of black American filmmaking, but he was building off two decades of films. That era comes back with this series, which includes underseen work by Kathleen Collins — a rare black female, then and now — and William Greaves, who made 1968's "Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One," an experimental film so radical it took three decades to be recognized. MATT PRIGGE

William Greaves, center, directed and starred in 1968's "Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One." / LINCOLN CENTER

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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Positive action will be your best bet. Your ingenuity will attract interesting partners. A love relationship will take a favorable turn.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Work on developing your ideas until you are ready to present. Sharing your ideas prematurely will result in lack of interest.

Aries | March 21-April 20 Making personal changes to your appearance or attitude will go a long way. If you ask for what you need, you will get the response necessary to move forward.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 You will pick up momentum. You may feel energetic, but in the end, you will make mistakes if you overload your plate.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Apologize if you want to keep the peace at home. There are always two sides to every situation. Respect the fact that everyone is entitled to her own opinion.

Cancer | June 21-July 22 Stick to what you are good at doing. Starting a new venture when you still have one in the works will distract you from your goal.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Focus on love and togetherness. Do whatever is necessary to provide a dramatic and dynamic day for someone special.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Check the information you receive before you make a decision. Changing course without having all the details will result in confusion.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Rely on your resources. Someone who reneges on a commitment will disappoint you. A personal relationship will take a meaningful turn. Make your move.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Plenty of opportunities are on the horizon. If you reduce your expenditures, you may be able to get in on a lucrative venture.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You will be faced with numerous decisions. Put off making a commitment until you have explored all your options.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Someone you know well will offer the tips you need to make a sound financial decision. Share your concepts and use the voice of experience. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	8			9	2	1		
	5			7	1	4		3
	6	1						
		7			3			8
3								4
1			7			6		
						9	4	
2		4	9	3			8	
		9	5	8			7	

1		2				3	9	
					9			7
			5	2	4	8		1
2		5						
	8		7		5		2	
						5		3
3		7	4	8	6			
6			1					
	9	1				4		6

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Be careful what you wish for

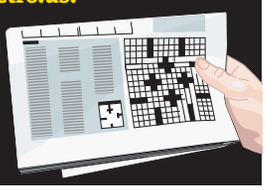
Re: 'Sharpton strikes back at young protesters' (Metro.us) When I read the reference to the "young protester" who is the head of New Yorkers Against Bratton, I couldn't help noticing that he was referred to as a "young protester." If he's under thirty, then he's too young to remember what New York City was like before Bill Bratton, the late Jack Maple, and other police officers who came up with the methods that have been used to reduce crime. However, those of us who are of a more advanced age are more aware of how much we owe to Bratton, Maple, and the other members of the NYPD.
JOHN FRANCIS FOX, VIA EMAIL

Act like a leader

President Obama, I beg you to please put down your cell phone and veto pen and pick up your sword and trumpet. You need to take action and march down to Congress and make your case for declaring war on ISIS. The brutal beheadings and murder of the Jordanian pilot is beyond evil and the last straw. This is your "Winston Churchill Moment." Your legacy as a world leader needs to be that you directed the U.S. and NATO forces in stopping and destroying ISIS once and for all. Not that you gave free tuition to community colleges.
SIGNED, STOP THE BEHEADINGS

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

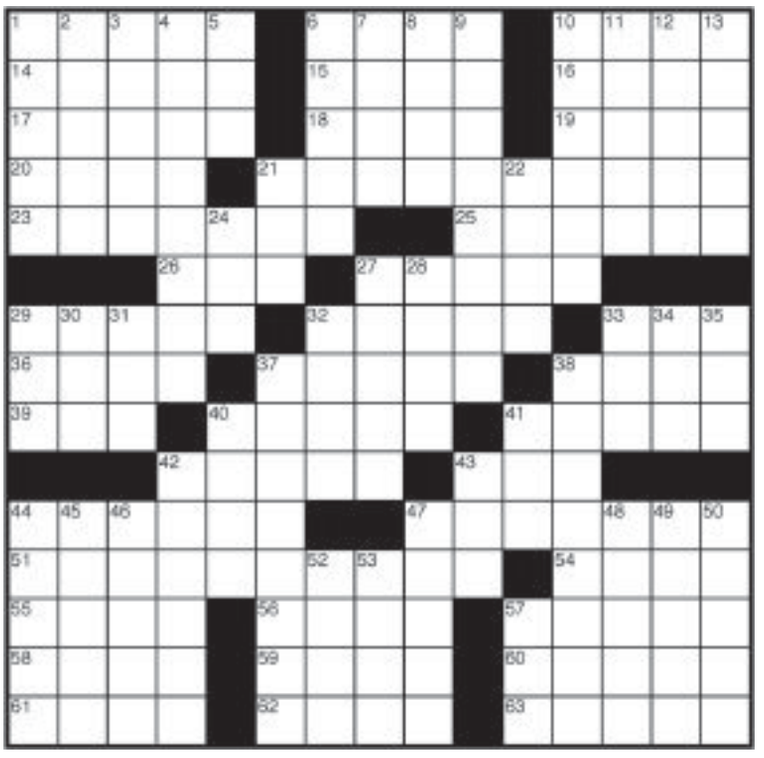
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



Crossword

Across
1 Traffic-jam noise
6 Dapper
10 Calf's bellow
14 Citrus trees
15 Guthrie of folk music
16 Lamb's pen name
17 Dull green
18 Muse of history
19 Arial or Helvetica
20 Nuisance
21 Chipmunk's storage unit (2 wds.)
23 Sign after Libra
25 Vast multitudes
26 Here, to Henri
27 Undivided
29 Cause
32 Amusing
33 Good buddy
36 Haze, plus
37 Super-duper
38 Kramer or Satie
39 Laptops, briefly
40 Big box
41 Purse closers
42 Metalworker
43 "Gunsmoke" nickname
44 "Venus" singer
47 Dangerous bears
51 New burst of energy (2 wds.)
54 Survey chart
55 Harvest haul
56 Alleviate
57 Errand
58 Horrible boss
59 Lunar valley
60 Ms. Zellweger
61 Lean toward
62 Narrow board
63 General direction

Down
1 Splotches
2 Fragrant blossom
3 Acid in proteins
4 Respecting deeply
5 Language suffix
6 Cheesy snack
7 Perry's penner
8 "That's — —!"
9 Became established (2 wds.)
10 Diet-ad caption
11 Audibly
12 Draw back in pain
13 Thin strips of wood
21 LI doubled
22 Gather opinions
24 Interest amt.
27 Fierce anger
28 Improve, as skills
29 Venomous snake
30 Truck mfr.
31 Sister of Helios
32 "Confound it!"
33 Car grill cover
34 Tear
35 Approves
37 Pepper mills
38 Write for a spy
40 Slangy summons
41 Instant lawn
42 Inclined gently
43 Pentagon grp.
44 Wide cravat
45 Extreme edge
46 Kind of squash
47 Paid homage
48 Not with anyone
49 Carpenter or Blixen
50 Knight's mount
52 Lament loudly
53 Cuba, to Castro
57 TV screen



Yesterday's answer

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3

SPORTS

Snoop-CLA

Snoop Dogg's son picks UCLA

The highly touted son of rapper Snoop Dogg, Cordell Broadus, picked UCLA during signing day Wednesday. The No. 26 wide receiver in the class of 2015 had little trouble converting his dad. "I'm throwing all my USC stuff away, I'm all UCLA now," Snoop Dogg tweeted.

INJURIES ARE KEY TO DAILY FANTASY HOOPS

Our generation's version of the gold rush was the poker boom, when millions of young adults took their shot at fame and fortune. Those who knew what they were doing early on cleaned up.

There's a new boom blowing up as we speak, and it's called Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS). There is a lot of profit to be had by simply picking a fantasy team for one day at a more effective clip than our opponents.

Health is key

The entire landscape of every slate is shaped by injuries. An easy example is Russell Westbrook, who averages 24 field-goal attempts per game when Kevin Durant is sidelined vs. 18.3 when KD plays. More time on the ball means more shots, more assists, more free throws, more everything. We see this around the league every night, turning good DFS plays into great ones. Kyle Lowry when DeMar DeRozan was out, Michael Carter-Williams after Tony Wroten went down.

MCW has three triple-doubles, tied for most in the NBA. / GETTY IMAGES

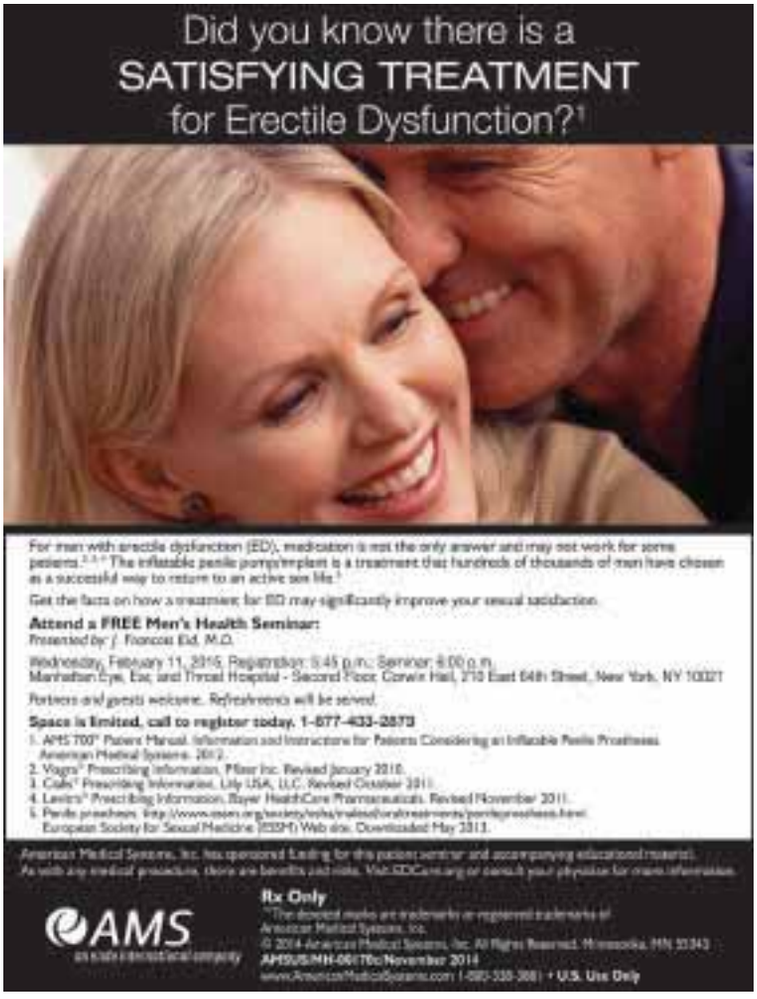
Stars and scrubs

Ideally, we'll use the aforementioned injuries to build a "stars and scrubs" style lineup. This means taking advantage of the value plays, usually in the form of backups. So when Durant is out, Dion Waiters is priced as a 20-minute player, even though he's starting and his usage rate will be high. When Brandon Jennings first sustained his injury, D.J. Augustin cost near the minimum even though he'd be on the ball for 35 minutes. Think about who is replacing the injured player, how many minutes they'll play and what their fantasy point-per-minute average is. Use those cheapies to afford stars like LeBron James, James Harden and Stephen Curry.

Pace yourself

So how do we know which stars to pay up for? It's all about the spot. NBA players typically skew toward their averages, but there are certain situations that are better or worse for them. For example, back-to-backs are tricky spots, and a lot of players have better home splits than road. We should know not to mess with the elite defenses of the Grizzlies, Hawks and Bucks very often. A more advanced way to think about spots is in pace, defined as possessions per game. The slower the pace the less chances there are for fantasy points from our players. Use the Las Vegas over/unders to get a general idea of how fast a game will be played.

FANTASY SPORTS
ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us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1. AMS 700™ Patient Manual. Information and Instructions for Patients Considering an Inflatable Penile Prosthesis. American Medical Systems. 2012.
2. Viagra® Prescribing Information. Pfizer Inc. Revised January 2010.
3. Cialis® Prescribing Information. Lilly USA, LLC. Revised October 2011.
4. Levitra® Prescribing Information. Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals. Revised November 2011.
5. Penile prosthesis. http://www.essm.org/society/soba/trained/orahtreatments/penileprosthesis.html. European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM) Web site. Downloaded May 2013.
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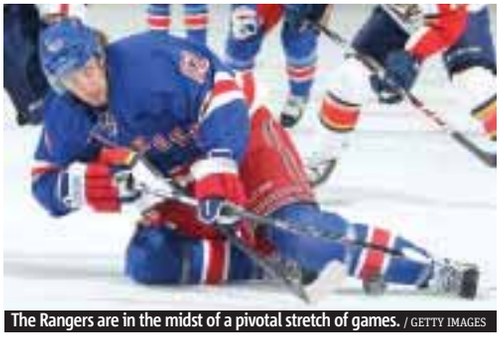
NHL. Rangers shake up lines as team gets ready for spring push

Alain Vigneault channeled his inner John Tortorella last weekend.

No, not in that way.

A devotee to static line combinations, Vigneault reconstructed the four forward units before the Rangers' not-entirely-crisp 4-1 win over the Carolina Hurricanes. Derek Stepan centered Chris Kreider and Martin St. Louis; J.T. Miller and Rick Nash skated on either side of Derick Brassard; the triumvirate of Mats Zuccarello, Kevin Hayes and Carl Hagelin comprised the third line; Jesper Fast, Dominic Moore and Tanner Glass rounded out the fourth and final line combination.

The Rangers outshot and out-attempted a Carolina squad that's slowly playing itself out of contention for the opportunity to select either Connor McDavid or Jack Eichel in this June's entry draft. But Vigneault, who slyly joked prior to the game that he had made "subtle" changes, wasn't entirely satisfied by what he witnessed.



The Rangers are in the midst of a pivotal stretch of games. / GETTY IMAGES

"I'm looking to get something that works together," Vigneault said of his decisions in the victory.

In the short term, the win halted the Rangers' two-game, post-All Star break losing streak, and allowed the reigning Eastern Conference champions to open up an eight-point lead over ninth seed Florida.

It is the long term that is concerning as entering the season's fifth month Vigneault has not yet found line combinations he is comfortable with. The Rangers begin February with a stretch of eight games in 16 days, including matches this Saturday in Nashville, and Presidents' Day on Long Island against an Islanders team they have not defeated this season. Essentially, it is fair to characterize February as a litmus test for the Rangers' readiness for the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

"We didn't start that well [against Carolina]," Henrik Lundqvist said. "In the second half we started to execute a lot better, and the passing was better and we got our speed going. It was good to score some goals as well." **DENIS GORMAN**

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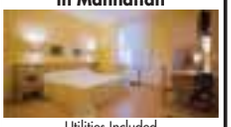

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition for Tajin Restaurant Corp. to continue to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 83 Greenwich Street in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of four years.

REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

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NEWS UPDATE
Why Kevin Costner is a better comedic than dramatic lead
2:54 pm Once upon a time Kevin Costner was the biggest movie star in the world. H...
The top 10 Super Bowls of all time
2:52 pm Finally, it is upon us. Around 6:30 P.M....
Bratton calls city's settlement with knife-wielding suspect 'outrageous'
2:01 pm NYPD Commissioner

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